

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Natural Resources Revenue**

**Royalty Policy Committee
Charter**

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** Royalty Policy Committee (Committee).
2. **Authority.** The Committee is in the public interest in connection with the responsibilities of the Department of the Interior's management of Federal and Indian mineral leases and revenues. Authority for the Committee is under the:
 - Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2;
 - Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331- 56a), including provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801);
 - Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Simplification and Fairness Act of 1996 (30 U.S.C. 1701-02);
 - Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001-28);
 - Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181-96);
 - Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (30 U.S.C. 351-60); and
 - Mineral Leasing Laws for Indian Land (30 U.S.C. 1701-2).
3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The Committee will provide advice to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), through the Director of the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR), on the management of Federal and Indian mineral leases and revenues. The Committee will review and comment on revenue management and other mineral and energy-related policies, and provide a forum to convey views representative of mineral lessees, operators, revenue payors, revenue recipients, governmental agencies, and public interest groups.
4. **Description of Duties.** The duties of the Committee are solely advisory.
5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports.** The Committee will report to the Secretary through the Director of the ONRR.
6. **Support.** The ONRR will provide administrative and logistical support for the Committee.
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Committee's functions are estimated to be \$165,748, including all direct and indirect expenses and 1.5 staff years.
8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The Designated Federal Officer (DFO) is the Director of the ONRR who is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will approve or call all Committee and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Committee and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Secretary.
9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Committee will meet approximately 1-2 times per year, and at such times as designated by the Director of the ONRR.

10. **Duration.** Continuing.

11. **Termination.** The Committee will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the FACA. The Committee will not meet or take any official action without a valid current charter.

12. **Membership and Designation.** The Secretary will appoint non-Federal members to the Committee to serve for 2- or 3-year terms.

Non-Federal Members: The Secretary may appoint members selected from, but not limited to:

- Up to five members representing states that receive significant royalty revenues from Federal leases.
- Up to five members representing Native Americans.
- Up to seven members representing the various mineral and/or energy interests.
- Up to three members representing public interest groups.

Non-Federal members may serve up to two consecutive terms. After a 2-year break in service, non-Federal members will again be eligible for appointment.

Alternate members may be appointed to the Committee. Alternates must be approved and appointed by the Secretary before attending meetings as representatives. Alternate members shall have experience and/or expertise similar to that of the primary member.

Non-Federal Members of the Committee serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Committee and subcommittee members engaged in Committee or subcommittee business approved by the DFO may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5703, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Federal Government service.

Any vacancy on the Committee will be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. All members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

Federal Members: The Federal members of the Committee will be appointed as non-voting members:

- A representative from the Assistant Secretary–Indian Affairs
- A representative from the Bureau of Land Management
- A representative from the ONRR

13. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members.** No Committee or subcommittee member will participate in a specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest.

14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purpose of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Committee for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. The Committee Chair, with the approval of the DFO, will appoint subcommittee members. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.
15. **Recordkeeping.** The records of the Committee, and formally and informally established subcommittees of the Committee, shall be handled in accordance with the General Records Schedule 26, Item 2 or other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.



Secretary of the Interior

APR 02 2012

Date Signed

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Date Filed